

REMARKS:

Applicant is adding new claims 16-60. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. See e.g., Appl'n, Page 6, Lines 25-31; and Page 7, Lines 1-6. These amendments are believed to be submitted before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits, and entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. Applicant is enclosing a check in the amount of \$378 covering the large entity fee for twenty-one (21) claims in excess of twenty (20) claims. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and the fees determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: January 14, 2004

Baker Botts L.L.P.
The Warner, Suite 1300
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
(202) 639-7700 (telephone)
(202) 639-7890 (facsimile)

JBA/TJC/dh

By

James B. Arppin
Registration No. 33,470